



Iowa Range

presumed statewide

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.

Asian clam

Corbicula fluminea

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Mollusca
Class: Bivalvia

Features

The Asian clam has a small, yellow-brown to black shell with concentric, regularly spaced ridges. Its shell is rounded to triangular. The inside of the shell is white or purple. The Asian clam may grow to 1 1/2 inches long.

Natural History

The Asian clam lives in the silt, mud, sand, or gravel bottom of lakes and streams. It has a free-swimming larva. It filters small organisms from the water for its food. The Asian clam is exotic to Iowa. It was introduced into western North America in the 1920s and 1930s and has spread throughout much of the United States.

Habitats

Mississippi River, Missouri River, interior rivers and streams; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs

Iowa Status

common; exotic